Locations for Sixteen Central Universities

2204. SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether a high-powered committee constituted by the Central Government is all set to begin state-hopping in order to identify locations for Sixteen Central Universities in the Eleventh Five Year Plan that Government has promised to the country;

(b) whether States are in the process of identifying the towns or cities where these universities are slated to start soon;

(c) whether the Ministry has constituted a team comprising Joint Secretary (Higher Education), UGC Official, a State Government representative and the Vice-Chancellor of a University located in the State;

(d) whether this Committee has recommended the locations; and

(e) what are the details of the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (e) The requirement of a new central university is estimated at about 500 acres of land which the concerned State Government will have to provide free of cost. The concerned State Governments were accordingly requested to indicate suitable sites for establishment of these Universities. In order to evaluate competing proposals in regard to location in each state and to assess suitability of sites indicated by State Government, site visit in each State is unavoidable and cannot be termed "State-hopping". The Central Government has constituted Site Selection Committees comprising Joint Secretary (Higher Education), a representative of the UGC, a representative of the concerned State Government and a Vice-Chancellor of one of the existing Central Universities to visit the sites indicated by the State Governments. The Site Selection Committees has visited four States so far and has submitted recommendations only in respect of one University to be established in the State of Punjab.

Discrimination with SC/ST students in IITs

2205. SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether several students belonging to SC/ST categories having been held ineligible to continue studying in IITs owing to their failure to secure qualifying marks in periodical tests lodged complaints of discrimination/prejudice against the authorities;

(b) if so, the details thereof during the last four years indicating the steps taken, if any, pursuant to their complaints;

(c) the details of instances where complaints against authorities stood substantiated leading to reversal of disqualifications of SC/ST students; and

(d) the steps initiated, if any, to address the problems of students failing to meet the academic parameter after securing admission in IITs under reserve quota?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be placed on the Table of the House.

Allocation of foodgrains for Mid-Day Meal Scheme

†2206. MS. SUSHILA TIRIYA:
SHRI MOTILAL VORA:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum of foodgrains provided for Mid Day Meal Scheme during 2006-07 and 2007-08, State-wise;

(b) the quantum of foodgrains out of the above took off by the States and the quantum of foodgrains utilised by them;

(c) the details of the States that have submitted appraisal reports to Government regarding the scheme; and

(d) the level of officers responsible for malpractice negligence in the Scheme and the action taken so far by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.A.A. FATMI): (a) and (b) The quantum of foodgrains allocated under the Mid Day Meal Scheme by the Central Government, lifted and utilized by the States/UTs during 2006-07 and 2007-08 is given in the Statements I and II respectively. (*See* below).

(c) At the end of a financial year, States/UTs submit their Annual Work Plan and Budget (AWP and B) for the next financial year along with the appraisal report of the current year. At the time of approval of AWP and B, the status of implementation of the Mid Day Meal Programme in the State/UT is appraised by Mid Day Meal-Programme Approval Board (MDM-PAB) headed by Union Secretary. Department of School Education and Literacy. For the AWP and B of the year 2007-08 and 2008-09 all the States/UTs submitted their appraisal reports of the year 2006-07 and 2007-08.

(d) The overall responsibility for implementation of mid-day meal scheme lies with the States/UTs. As and when, any complaint is brought to the notice of the Central Government, the concerned State Government/UT Administration is asked to conduct suitable enquiry and to take appropriate action against the responsible person(s) and initiate corrective measures to avoid recurrence of such incidents in future.

---

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.